

MINUTES OF THE
MARICOPA ASSOCIATION OF GOVERNMENTS
STREET COMMITTEE

Tuesday, December 9, 2003
MAG Offices, Saguaro Conference Room
302 North First Avenue, Suite 200
Phoenix, Arizona 85003

MEMBERS ATTENDING

Don Herp, Phoenix, Chairman	*Horatio Skeet, Litchfield Park
Andrew Smith, ADOT	Chris Plumb, Maricopa County
Mike Smith, Avondale	Kevin Wallace, Mesa
*Carroll Reynolds, Buckeye	Andrew Cooper, Paradise Valley
Dan Cook, Chandler	Burton Charron, Peoria
*David Evertsen, Gila Bend	*Bob Ronzo, Salt River Pima-Maricopa
Michael Vinson, Gila River Indian Community	Indian Community
Bruce Ward, Gilbert	Robert Brown, Scottsdale
Dan Sherwood, Glendale	Robert Maki, Surprise
Michael Valentine for Charles Hydeman,	Larry Shobe, Tempe
Goodyear	*Ralph Velez, Tolleson
Jim Ricker, Guadalupe	*Jesse Mendez, Youngtown

*Members neither present nor represented by Proxy

OTHERS PRESENT

Mark Danowitz	Stephen Tate, MAG
Randy Allenstein, ADOT	Paul Ward, MAG

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Don Herp at 1:30 p.m.

2. Approval of the October 14, 2003, Meeting Minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved.

3. Call to the Audience and Stakeholders

There were no requests to address the Committee during this part of the agenda.

4. Transportation Programming Manager's Report

Paul Ward noted that the Regional Council had approved the FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program on November 25, 2004. He then proceeded to note that the Congress was in the process of developing a new surface transportation bill, that versions of the new surface transportation bill had passed out of Senate and House transportation committees and that both versions include higher funding levels than the current surface transportation act. There had been no FY 2004 Appropriations Bill passed yet.

5. MAG Federally Funded Locally Sponsored Projects Development Status

Stephen Tate began by distributing a report on the status of FY 2004 and FY 2005 MAG Federally funded projects. He requested that members review the status report and provide him with updates after the meeting.

He then proceeded to review key deadlines for developing federally funded projects programmed for FY 2004. He noted that requests to defer FY 2004 projects were due **by March 1, 2004**; that requests to accelerate projects would be considered **starting in April 2004**; and that 95 percent plans and all final documents necessary to obtain environmental, right-of-way and utilities clearances should have been submitted to ADOT **by August 1, 2004**. He concluded by noting that the Federal Highway Administration normally would not consider applications to obligate projects after the second week in September as the agency needed time to close out the federal fiscal year.

Given these deadlines and the amount of work necessary to develop, review and finalize documents, he stressed that all FY 2004 federally funded construction projects should be well into the design and clearance process. He added that **by March 1, 2004**, that all agencies should have obtained ADOT approval of the design concept report for their projects and have submitted all major documents necessary to obtain an environmental clearance for their projects. Projects that failed to meet these milestones by March 1, 2004 are unlikely to obligate in FY 2004.

6. FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)

Mr. Ward distributed copies of the FY 2004-2007 MAG Transportation Program. He noted that this TIP was for only four years and that the first three years of this TIP had been sent to ADOT for inclusion in the State Transportation Improvement Program. Copies of the TIP would be distributed to all of those MAG member agencies that were not present at this meeting and that additional copies of the TIP, or just the Listing of Projects, was available from MAG staff on request.

7. Development of the MAG Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Ward briefed the Committee on the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He noted that the UPWP is developed jointly with ADOT and Valley Metro and that it encapsulates MAG's annual operating budget. It includes studies and activities that MAG conducts and is primarily funded with federal planning funds.

He went on to indicate that this item was on the agenda to allow members to make suggestions for projects to be included in the UPWP and that in future meetings of the Committee he would be bring them with more details about potential projects to be included in the UPWP.

8. Regional Transportation Plan Arterial Street Projects and Programming

Mr. Ward briefed the Committee on arterial street programming issues concerning the proposed half-cent sales tax extension. He noted that an informal working group had met to identify and discuss likely policy and technical issues that may need to be addressed should a half-cent sales tax extension be approved by the voters next year. He then distributed a listing of the issues identified and briefly went over the list.

He also indicated that an informal working group will likely be formed to address policy issues and define a policy framework necessary to address technical issues. He suggested that this group would

probably be composed of members of the Transportation Review Committee (TRC). He also suggested that an informal working group would be needed to address technical issues and suggested that this group could include the Street Committee members plus other interested parties. Mr. Ward then passed out a potential schedule for the informal working groups that called for the policy group to meet after TRC meeting and the technical group to meet after Street Committee meetings.

Dan Cook noted that the division of working groups between policy and technical issues could prove very difficult as most issues concerning the projects involved a mixture of both policy and technical issues. He suggested that single group might be best.

Chris Plumb noted that a number of policy and technical issues needed to be defined and that as a first step that Maricopa County had developed a segment listing showing lane miles and per lane mile costs of arterial street projects included in the Regional Transportation Plan. He then distributed this listing.

In the general discussion that followed it was noted that listing was valuable, but that it must be carefully interpreted as the costs were rather heterogeneous. For example, it was noted by Mr. Plumb that adding new lane capacity to an existing facility often involves reconstruction of existing lanes and other features of the facility.

Mr. Ward asked if it was the sense of the Committee that the Street Committee should be the core of the technical working group. It was the sense of the Committee that this should be the case.

9. Highway Performance Monitoring System Local Street Mileage Estimates

Mr. Tate briefed the Committee on the Highway Performance Monitoring System (HPMS). He noted that the HPMS was a database used by the United States Department of Transportation to develop transportation policy, provide information to the Congress and to implement federal funding formulae.

He indicated that MAG routinely provides information to update the HPMS and that this typically occurs in two phases: (1) an update of locally owned street mileage usually timed to conclude by the end of March and (2) an update of HPMS segment data usually timed to conclude by the end of May. He went on to note that this year MAG would be distributing maps of local streets and asking member agencies to identify streets owned by them.

10. FY 2005-2009 TIP Development, Inclusion of Design Projects for MAG Federally Funded Projects

Mr. Ward noted that the Committee had considered a policy of requiring that all MAG federally funded construction projects have a design phase programmed in the TIP and that action on the policy was on the Agenda for this meeting. However, he noted that due to potential issues concerning the Regional Transportation Plan that it would be better to defer action by the Committee on the issue until a later time.

11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:59 p.m.